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Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Opposition to SB-349: *An Act Concerning Single-Use Carryout Plastic and Paper Bags and the use of Reusable Bags*

Dear Senators and Representatives,

My name is Frank C. DeFelice, and I currently serve as a Planning & Zoning Commissioner and Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commissioner in the Town of Durham, Connecticut and as Chairman of the Regional Planning Commission of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG).

Each year, well-intentioned but ill-informed environmentalists raise this issue. Unfortunately, they do not understand the fabrication or degradation process for either paper or plastic bags. Assuming that a paper bag somehow degrades faster than a plastic one is imprecise.

First, you must realize that paper bags would fall apart if not for the polymeric resins incorporated into the paper to give it tensile and wet strength. It is these resins which inhibit the deterioration of paper bags when placed in a landfill. But most are not landfilled, they are incinerated.

Second, you must realize that "single-use" plastic bags are stronger than paper; and so are **not** typically used just once and discarded. How many of us carry our lunch to work in a plastic bag? Many people re-use and recycle plastic bags, without the need for this legislation.

Each material serves a unique purpose and both should continue to be used without penalty. I ask that you **oppose** this legislation.

Respectfully,

Frank C. DeFelice